GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1631
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
ALLOCATION FOR R & D OF NEW CROP VARIETIES .
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The funds allocated for research and development of high yielding crop varieties during the last five years;

(b) The steps taken to promote public-private participation in biotechnology sector for achieving sustainable growth in agricultural sector;

(c) Whether the Government proposes to set up special venture capital fund for biotechnology and develop a suitable regulatory framework for promoting biotechnology crops; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a)The funds allocated for research and development activities of crops including high yielding varieties during last five years (2001-2002 to 2005-2006) are as follows:-

(i) Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Rs.1077.33 Crores
(ii) Department of Biotechnology - Approx. Rs.60 Crores

(b) A number of biotechnology schemes are in place in various departments to promote public-private participation in various sectors viz. Home Grown Technology (HGT) in Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC) of Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) in Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and small Business Innovation & Research Initiative (SBIRI) in DBT.

The Small Business Innovation & Research Initiative (SBIRI) is supporting existing private industrial units to promote their indigenous product and Research & Development (R&D) activities. Indian Council of Agricultural Research is supporting private sector for the availability of bioagent cultures. Transgenic material developed by private sector is also being tested by public institution specially Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

(c) & (d): The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has informed that no proposal is under consideration of DBT for setting up of special venture capital fund for biotechnology. The harmonization of regulatory framework for agriculture sector is under consideration by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India.